

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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March 23, 2004

FROM: **RAYMOND B. WINGERD**, Interim Chief Probation Officer
 Probation Department

SUBJECT: **AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
AND PROBATION FOR THE CONTINUATION OF A FIRE SCIENCES ACADEMY AND
RELATED TRAINING**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve Amendment No. 1 to Agreement 02-142 with the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, and the Probation Department, to continue the Fire Sciences Academy program for training and education of eligible student participants from the Probation Department's post-adjudicated treatment programs through June 30, 2006; ratify actions taken pursuant to the agreement during 2003, including the elimination of references to the Workforce Investment Act grant.
2. Approve Amendment No. 2 to Agreement 02-142 with the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, and the Probation Department to extend the annual financial and operating plans through December 31, 2004.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In July 2001, the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCSS) was awarded a federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) grant to assist juvenile offenders in job training and employment. As a result, the SBCSS, Probation and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USDAFS) designed a Fire Sciences Academy for training and education of eligible student participants, otherwise commonly referred to by the agencies as the "Participating Agreement." Students from the three (3) Probation treatment programs: 1) Regional Youth Educational Facility Boy's Program (RYEF-Boys), 2) Regional Youth Educational Facility Girl's Program (RYEF-Girls) and 3) Camp Heart Bar are eligible to participate in this grant program during their commitment period.

The WIA grant expired on June 30, 2003. Amendment No. 1 serves to eliminate references to the WIA grant, modify the annual financial and operating plans for calendar year 2003 and extend the Participating Agreement through June 30, 2006. Although the Board of Supervisors approved the original agreement on February 26, 2002, the Department was unsure if plans for the Academy would continue, and it has yet to function. The devastating fire events of October/November 2003 renewed interest in the program.

During February 2004, the Department received Amendment No. 2, which modifies and extends the Participating Agreement's annual financial and operating plans through calendar year 2004. The modifications consist of: 1) updating the names of principal contacts for Probation; 2) modifying the format of the financial plan; 3) decreasing County in-kind contributions by \$800 for materials by an equivalent increase to the Forest Service; and 4) eliminating all previously anticipated projects with the exception of the "Mini-Fire Academy." All other contractual details remain the same.

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Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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Program participants would not be involved with any live "fire-line" activity. Instead they would be educated in fire science, fire prevention, teamwork, work projects, and employment opportunities. Through specific academic job training in the area of fire fighting, students gain valuable experience that could assist them in qualifying for a Civil Service GS-3 rating and enable them to be eligible for entry-level employment with the federal government.

This educational opportunity would enhance the County's post-adjudicated program for boys and girls, and would provide juvenile student with an educational experience that would contribute not only to their personal development, but also to the betterment of our communities. The program would be operational by April 2004.

If approved, Amendment No. 1 would reaffirm plans to operate the Academy through June 30, 2006, and would bring the agreement current now that it is no longer a WIA grant program. Amendment No. 2 would approve the financial and operating plans for calendar year 2004. Under the terms of the Participating Agreement with the USDAFS, either party may terminate the Agreement at any time.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY OTHERS: This item has been reviewed by the County Counsel (Dawn Stafford, Deputy County Counsel, 387-5471) on February 26, 2004, and the County Administrative Office (Laurie Rozko, Administrative Analyst, 387-8997) on March 11, 2004.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: This program is fully operated by in-kind contributions of the three (3) participating agencies. All Probation costs related to the Academy are in-kind labor and supplies already budgeted in the normal operation of the eligible treatment programs. There is no local cost impact to continue this program.

COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and concurs with the department's recommendations to approve these amendments and continue this program as a job training option for eligible participants within the County's juvenile treatment programs.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): All

PRESENTER: George Post, Acting Deputy Chief Probation Officer, 387-5854

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